LPG Distribution Centre in Rai Bareily, U.P.

953. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present there is only one authorised distribution centre in the entire District of Rai Bareily in U.P. for supply of LPG catering to an area nearly 50 K.M. as a result of which there is a lot of inconvenience to the consumers of Lalganj, Bhojpur and Sareni;

'(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set-up another distribution centre for the benefit of the consumer residing at Lalganj, Bhojpur and Sareni; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) There are already 7 LPG distributorships in operation in District Rai Bareily, i.e. 3 at Rai Bareily and 1 each at Salon, Tiloi, Unchahar and Jais. The locations Bachrama, Maharajganj, Sareni, Rai Bareily and Lalganj, have also been included in the Marketing Plan. The location Lalganj has already been advertised.

Bhojpur is reportedly not viable due to inadequate potential.

Corruption in the Allotment of LPG and Petrol Agencies

954. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many petrol pumps and LPG agencies were given during last three years, State-wise;

(b) how many of them were allotted through Oil Selection Eoard (OSB) and how many of them through the discretionary quotas, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is rampant corruption in the allotment of retail outlets by OSBs; and

(d) whether Government would consider removing the restrictive allotment system and offer outlets on commercial terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) After abolition of discretionary quota in July, 1996, Government has not approved any fresh allotment of dealershipdistributorship of petroleum products under discretionary quota.

During the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, 170 RO dealerships and 232 LPG distributorships .were allotted through Dealer Selection Boards.

(c) Complaints have been received in some, cases alleging irregularities etc. in the selection of dealersftistributors by the Dealer Selection Boards. Government has laid down guidelines for dealing with such complaints. Action is taken on the complaints in line with the guidelines.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

Demand for more Allocation of Gas for Power Plants

955. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has demanded more allocation of gas for setting up of gas-based power plants; and

(b) what has been Government's response to this request in view », of the fact that Gujarat is a gas producing state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI . E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government of Gujarat had requested for allocation of natural gas to establish a power plant at Pipavav.

(b) It has not been possible to agree to the above request in view of the shortfall in availability of gas as compared to the demand: